

Job 21:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.

Analysis

The wicked's children flourish: 'They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.' Job contradicts his friends—the wicked's children DO prosper, dancing joyfully like frolicking lambs. This challenges simplistic retribution theology. If wickedness always brought swift judgment, the wicked's children would suffer. Job observes reality: the righteous sometimes suffer while the wicked prosper. This prepares for Psalm 73's later treatment of this problem.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom assumed righteous prosperity and wicked suffering as general principles. Job challenges this by pointing to observable exceptions. His empirical approach—look at reality, not just theory—demonstrates wisdom that accounts for life's complexity.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do we handle tension between doctrine that righteousness brings blessing and reality that the wicked sometimes prosper?
2. What does Job's willingness to observe reality rather than maintain theory teach about honest faith?
3. How does Psalm 73's resolution (the wicked's ultimate end) address the problem Job raises?

Interlinear Text

They send forth	like a flock	their little ones	and their children	dance
H7971	H6629	H5759	H3206	H7540

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